

Tomb Raiders



Turkish Military Evacuates Soldiers, Tomb in Syria

Turks work to build a new Ottoman tomb in Esme village in Aleppo province, Syria, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015. Turkey launched a weekend military operation into neighboring Syria to evacuate troops guarding an Ottoman tomb and to move the crypt to a new location, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Sunday. (AP Photo/Mursel Coban, Depo Photos)

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Turkish military evacuates soldiers, tomb in Syria

SEBNEM ARSU

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ISTANBUL - The Turkish army sent armored troops deep into Syria this weekend on a rescue mission, to recover the remains of a major historical figure and to evacuate the guards at his besieged tomb, the prime minister announced in a televised news conference Sunday.

The tomb of Suleyman Shah, grandfather of the founder of the Ottoman Empire, is 20 miles south of the Turkish border, but it has been considered Turkish territory under a 1921 treaty with France, which ruled Syria at that time. Fighters from the Islamic State extremist group have controlled the surrounding area and have kept the Turkish soldiers there trapped for months, although they did not assault the tomb.

The prime minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, said there were no clashes during the mission and only one casualty, a soldier who was killed in an accident.

He said Turkey notified the Syrian government, rebel leaders and the coalition forces fighting the Islamic State about the operation. It appeared to be Turkey's first significant ground incursion into Syria since the civil war there began almost four years ago.

Davutoglu said 572 troops, 39 tanks, 57 armored vehicles and 100 other vehicles were involved, and that the column reached the tomb shortly after midnight. "A religious ceremony was held for the transfer of the tomb remains while other items of cultural significance were removed with similar care," he said. "Our troops were safely removed from the area."

Finally, he said, the Turkish flag was lowered, and the tomb and security station were destroyed to prevent any possible use by extremists. The Turkish Foreign Ministry said the operation was prompted by the chaos and instability in Syria. The Turkish news channel NTV reported that the government had received warnings in recent days that

clashes were likely to erupt nearby between forces of the Islamic State and Kurdish troops known as peshmerga, and that the tomb could become a target.

"The Suleyman Shah tomb has been a point of vulnerability for Turkey for a long time, and with this operation, such weakness has been eliminated," said Sinan Ulgen, the chairman of the Istanbul-based Center for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies and a visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe in Brussels. "The Islamic State could have used the presence of the tomb as leverage in case of any confrontation with Turkey."

Davutoglu said that, in accordance with the 1921 treaty, a new tomb for Suleyman Shah was being established in a part of Syria that is under Kurdish control, the Ashme district in the Rojava region. Turkish television showed images Sunday of the Turkish flag being raised there.

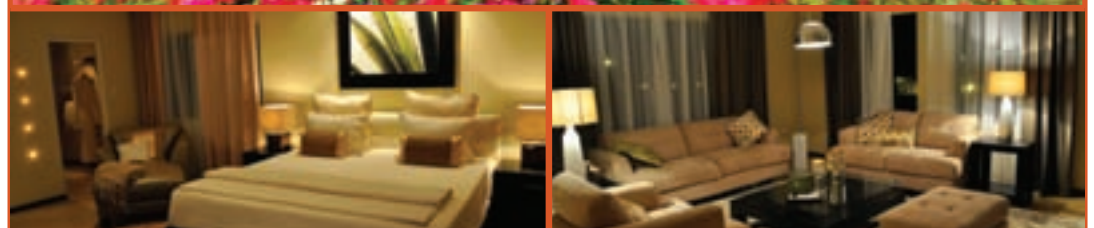
Suleyman Shah, who died in 1236, is believed to have drowned in the Euphrates River, which flows south from Turkey through Syria and into Iraq.

Davutoglu said that when conditions in Syria permitted, the tomb would be moved back again to the site that was evacuated, near the village of Karakozak. Tensions have mounted around the tomb since March, when the Islamic State took control of the surrounding area and began threatening to destroy the tomb unless guards there lowered the Turkish flag.

The militant group raided Turkey's consulate in Mosul, Iraq, last June and seized 46 Turks and three Iraqis as hostages; they were released three months later on terms that were not disclosed. That crisis discouraged Turkey from joining the U.S.-led military coalition conducting strikes against the Islamic State, though Turkey has cooperated with the U.S. in other ways, including an agreement signed Friday to train and equip moderate Syrian rebels on Turkish soil. □



Turkish army's armored vehicles and tanks drive in Syrian town of Ayn al-Arab, also known as Kobani, as they return from the Ottoman tomb in Syria, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015. Turkey launched a weekend military operation into neighboring Syria to evacuate troops guarding an Ottoman tomb and to move the crypt to a new location, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Sunday. (AP Photo/Mursel Coban, Depo Photos)

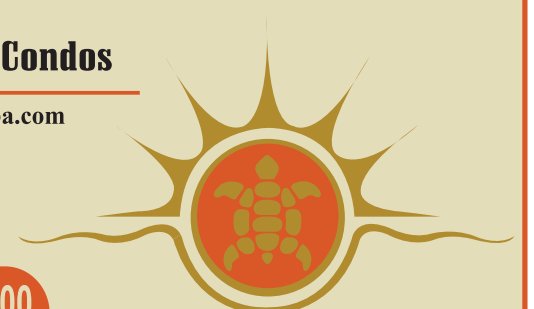


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Homeland Security Chief urges caution after mall threats

MARK LANDLER

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WASHINGTON - The na-

tion's top homeland security official urged shoppers Sunday to be "particularly

careful" in visiting the Mall of America, a sprawling shopping center outside Minneapolis, after it was targeted for a terrorist attack in a video posted by a radical Islamist group.

tors communications from extremist organizations. The video singles out the Mall of America, one of the nation's largest shopping centers, in Bloomington, Minnesota, as well as Ox-

against shopping centers around the world, to include in the United States." The agencies said they were working with "state and local public safety counterparts and mem-



Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson speaks in Washington. Johnson urged shoppers Sunday to be "particularly careful" in visiting the Mall of America outside Minneapolis, after it was targeted for a terrorist attack in a video posted by a radical Islamist group.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

"If anyone is planning to go to the Mall of America today, they've got to be particularly careful," the official, Jeh C. Johnson, the secretary of Homeland Security, said on CNN. "There will be enhanced security there," Johnson said, "but public vigilance, public awareness and public caution in situations like this is particularly important, and it's the environment we're in, frankly." Mall of America officials said they had tightened security after the posting of the 75-minute video by al-Shabab, an al-Qaida-linked extremist group in Somalia. Al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack in 2013 on the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya, in which more than 60 people were killed. In the documentary-style video, a masked person wearing a checkered head scarf and a camouflage jacket declared, "Westgate was just the beginning," according to SITE, a website that moni-

ford Street, a popular London shopping street, and the West Edmonton Mall in Canada, which is the largest mall in North America. "The Mall of America is aware of a video that was recently released, which included a mention and images of the mall," officials said in a statement, adding that they had "implemented extra security precautions" and that "some may be noticeable to guests, and others won't be." A law enforcement official said the threat to the mall was general rather than specific. But he said it was still a cause for concern, since the video message could inspire extremist action on the part of people living nearby. Minneapolis, with a large Somali population, is viewed as a fertile recruiting ground for groups like al-Shabab. In a joint statement, the Homeland Security Department and the FBI said, "We are aware of the reported call from al-Shabab for 'Westgate style' attacks

bers of the private sector, to include mall owners and operators, to prevent and mitigate these types of threats." Johnson also spoke Sunday on the ABC program "This Week," on which he put less emphasis on the specific threat to the Mall of America than on the need to counter the narrative of groups like al-Shabab and the Islamic State, which use the Internet to broadcast messages far beyond their geographic areas of operation. The White House held a three-day conference last week to galvanize that effort. "The video that was released by al-Shabab reflects what I believe is the new phase we've evolved in terms of the global terrorist threat, and what we need to do in terms of counterterrorism," Johnson said. On Sunday, Homeland Security officials clarified that Johnson was not warning people to avoid the Mall of America. □

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Authorities regain control of Texas prison from inmates

RAYMONDVILLE, Texas (AP) — Officers regained control of a South Texas prison where inmates had set fires and caused significant damage after taking over part of the facility, according to the private contractor operating the prison.

About 300 of the 2,800 inmates were moved Sunday from the Willacy County Correctional Center to other federal facilities, said Issa Arnita, a spokesman for Management & Training Corp., the Utah-based company that runs the prison. A few hundred more will be transferred before the day is out and the rest will be moved over the next few days.

Arnita declined to say where the inmates would be taken or how long they would remain there, citing security reasons. He did say they would be taken to other federal units in Texas and elsewhere, and he described them as "cooperative" with the transfers. The inmates are primarily "low-level" offenders who are immigrants in the country illegally, accord-

ing to the prison operator. They took control of part of the prison on Friday, complaining about conditions at the facility and its medical services and refusing to complete their work assignments, officials said.

The Valley Morning Star reported that fires were set inside three of the prison's 10 housing units, and Arnita said in a statement Sunday that extensive damage was done to plumbing and heating and cooling systems. The full extent of the damage is still unknown.

Authorities said two corrections officers and three inmates suffered minor injuries.

A spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons referred questions Sunday to Management & Training Corp. According to a report last year by the American Civil Liberties Union, the large Kevlar tents that make up the facility are not "only foul, cramped and depressing, but also overcrowded."

The report said inmates reported their medical concerns were often ignored by staff and that corners

were often cut when it came to inmates' health care.

Carl Takei, a staff attorney with the ACLU's National Prison Project, said the courts have determined that the denial of appropri-

responsibility to provide inmates with proper medical care just by handing control of a prison to a private contractor like MTC, he said.

Takei said problems at the Willacy County prison also

and overcrowding makes for a tense atmosphere," he said.

Brian McGiverin, a prisoners' rights attorney with the Texas Civil Rights Project, said he wasn't surprised that inadequate medical




Law enforcement officials from a wide variety of agencies converge on the Willacy County Correctional Center in Raymondville, Texas in response to a prisoner uprising at the private immigration detention center. Officers regained control of the prison after inmates had set fires and caused significant damage after taking over part of the facility, according to the private contractor operating the prison. (AP Photo/Valley Morning Star, David Pike)

ate medical care amounts to cruel and unusual punishment. Government institutions like the Bureau of Prisons can't evade their


include instances of overflowing toilets and sewage that seeps into sleeping areas.

"The unsanitary conditions


care could ignite unrest. He said medical care is grossly underfunded in prisons, especially those run by private contractors. □



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American Living:

Health care opens middle-class path, taken mainly by women

DIONNE SEARCEY
 EDUARDO PORTER
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 © 2015 New York Times

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. - For Tabitha Waugh, it was another typical day of chaos on the sixth floor cancer ward. The fire alarm was blaring for the second time that afternoon, prompting patients to stumble out of their rooms. One confused elderly man approached Waugh, a registered nurse at St. Mary's Medical Center here, but she had no time to console him. An aide was hollering from



Tabitha Waugh, left, a registered nurse who is the main breadwinner in her family of four, administers treatment to a patient at St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington, W. Va. Where industrial jobs have grown scarce, nurses and other health care professionals are increasingly leading the way to middle-income lifestyles.

(N. Bengiveno/The New York Times)

another room, where a patient sat dazed on the edge of his bed, blood pooling on the floor from the IV he had yanked from his vein. "Hey, big guy, can you lay back in bed?" she asked, as she cleaned the patient before inserting a new line. He winced. "Hold my hand, OK?" she said. Waugh, who is 30 and the main breadwinner in her family of four, still had three hours to go before the end of a 12-hour shift. But despite the stresses and constant demands, all the hard work was paying off. Her wage of nearly \$27 an hour provides the mainstay for a comfortable life that includes a three-bedroom home, a pickup truck and a new SUV, tumbling classes for her 3-year-old, Piper, and dozens of bright blue Thomas the Tank Engine cars heaped under the double bed of her 6-year-old, Collin. The daughter of a teacher's aide and a gas station manager, Waugh, like many other hardworking and often overlooked Americans, has secured a spot in a profoundly transformed middle class. While the group continues to include large numbers of people sitting at desks, far fewer middle-income workers of the 21st century are donning overalls. Instead, reflecting the biggest change in recent years, millions more are in scrubs. "We used to think about the men going out with their lunch bucket to their factory, and those were good jobs," said Jane Waldfogel, a professor at Columbia

University who studies work and family issues. "What's the corresponding job today? It's in the health care sector." In 1980, 1.4 million jobs in health care paid a middle class wage: \$40,000 to \$80,000 a year in today's money. Now, the figure is 4.5 million. The pay of registered nurses - now the third-largest middle-income occupation and one that continues to be overwhelmingly female - has risen strongly along with the increasing demands of the job. The median salary of \$61,000 a year in 2012 was 55 percent greater, adjusted for inflation, than three decades earlier. And it was about \$9,000 more than the shriveled wages of, say, a phone company repairman, who would have been more likely to head a middle-class family in the 1980s. Back then, more than a quarter of middle-income jobs were in manufacturing, a sector long dominated by men. Today, it is just 13 percent. As the job market has shifted, women, in general, have more skillfully negotiated the twists and turns of the new economy, rushing to secure jobs in health care and other industries that demand more education and training. Men, by contrast, have been less successful at keeping up. In many working- and middle-class households, women now earn the bigger paycheck, work longer hours and have greater opportunities for career advancement. □

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AP Exclusive:

Fuel-hauling trains could derail 10 times a year



Crews work at the scene of a Canadian Pacific freight train derailment north of Dubuque, Iowa, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015. The U.S. government predicts that trains hauling crude oil or ethanol will derail an average of 10 times a year over the next two decades. (AP/Telegraph Herald, Dave Kettering)

**MATTHEW BROWN
JOSH FUNK
Associated Press
BILLINGS, Montana (AP)**

— The U.S. government predicts that trains hauling crude oil or ethanol will derail an average of 10 times a year over the next two decades, causing more than \$4 billion in damage and possibly killing hundreds of people if an accident happens in a densely populated part of the country.

The projection comes from a previously unreported analysis by the Department of Transportation that reviewed the risks of moving vast quantities of both fuels across the U.S. and through major cities. The study completed last July took on new relevance this week after a train loaded with crude derailed in West Virginia, sparked a spectacular fire and forced the evacuation of hundreds of families.

Monday's accident was the latest in a spate of fiery derailments, and senior federal officials said it drives home the need for stronger tank cars, more effective braking systems and other safety improvements.

"This underscores why we need to move as quickly as possible getting these regulations in place," said Tim Butters, acting administrator for the Transportation Department's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

The volume of flammable liquids transported by rail has risen dramatically over the last decade, driven mostly by the oil shale boom in North Dakota and Montana. This year, rails are expected to move nearly 900,000 car loads of oil and ethanol in tankers. Each can hold 30,000 gallons (113,600 liters) of fuel.

Based on past accident trends, anticipated shipping volumes and known ethanol and crude rail routes, the analysis predicted about 15 derailments in 2015, declining to about five a year by 2034.

The 207 total derailments over the two-decade period would cause \$4.5 billion in damage, according to the analysis, which predicts 10 "higher consequence events" causing more extensive damage and potential fatalities.

If just one of those more severe accidents occurred in a high-population area, it could kill more than 200 people and cause roughly \$6 billion in damage.

"Such an event is unlikely, but such damages could occur when a substantial number of people are harmed or a particularly vulnerable environmental area is affected," the analysis concluded.

The two fuels travel through communities with an average population density of 283 people per square kilometer, according to the federal analysis. That

means about 16 million Americans live within a half-kilometer (0.3 miles) of one of the lines.

Such proximity is equivalent to the zone of destruction left by a July 2013 oil train explosion that killed 47 people and leveled much of downtown Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, the analysis said.

Damage at Lac-Mégantic has been estimated at \$1.2 billion or higher.

A spokesman for the Association of American Railroads said the group was aware of the Department of Transportation analysis but had no comment on its derailment projections.

"Our focus is to continue looking at ways to en-

hance the safe movement of rail transportation," AAR spokesman Ed Greenberg said.

Both the railroad group and the Railway Supply Institute, which represents tank car owners and manufacturers, said federal officials had inflated damage estimates and exaggerated risk by assuming an accident even worse than Lac-Mégantic, which was already an outlier because it involved a runaway train traveling 65 mph, (105 kph) far faster than others that had accidents.

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American Politics:

For Clinton, her family foundation may pose campaign risks

KEN THOMAS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The foundation launched by former President Bill Clinton more than a decade ago has battled HIV and AIDS in Africa, educated millions of children and fed the poor and hungry around the globe. It also has the potential to become a political risk for Hillary Rodham Clinton as she moves toward a second presidential campaign.

The former secretary of state has struggled with some recent bad headlines over large donations given to the foundation by foreign governments in the past two years, and the \$200 million-plus the or-

ganization has raised since 2013, ahead of her anticipated White House campaign.

Republicans contend that foreign governments donating to a foundation led by a potential U.S. president creates unacceptable conflicts of interests. Also, the involvement of big money reinforces a long-standing narrative pushed by Republicans of the Clintons as a couple who frequently mix business and politics.

"Unless Hillary Clinton immediately reinstates the ban on foreign countries giving to her foundation and returns the millions of dollars these governments have already donated,

she's setting an incredibly dangerous precedent," said the chairman of the Republican National Committee, Reince Priebus. "The American people are not about to elect a president in Hillary Clinton who could expose them to the demands of foreign governments because they dumped massive sums of cash into her foundation." The foundation, which is scheduled to hold events in Morocco and Greece this spring, defended its financial support and addressed how it might function if Clinton runs for president. If she seeks office again, something taken as a given by most, the foundation said it would ensure its policies



Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks at Georgetown University in Washington.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

and practices are "appropriate, just as we did when she served as secretary of state."

In 2009, when Clinton became President Barack Obama's chief diplomat, the foundation stopped raising money from foreign governments. The fundraising involving non-U.S. entities resumed in 2013, after she left his administration.

The Wall Street Journal last week reported the foundation had received money in 2014 from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman and others. The Washington Post reported the charity has raised nearly \$2 billion since the former president started it in 2001. About one-third of its donations of \$1 million or more come from foreign governments or non-U.S. entities, the newspaper found.

Democrats say the Clintons can defend their work at the foundation because of its track record and history of tackling some of the world's biggest problems, from AIDS and clean water to hunger, educational opportunities and the protection of endangered wildlife. "The foundation has done

amazing work," said Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy, a Democrat who campaigned with Bill Clinton last year. They also note that the foundation voluntarily discloses its donors — nonprofits are not required to do so — and say there is no evidence the Clintons have used it to enrich themselves. Nearly 90 percent of the foundation's money goes toward its programming.

"If your criticism ... is that she raised too much money for her charity to help people around the globe, OK, I'll take that," said Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a longtime Clinton friend and former board member of the foundation.

Yet the influx of corporate and foreign money just before a potential Hillary Clinton campaign has caused some anxiety within her party.

Mike Carberry, a Johnson County, Iowa, supervisor and former county Democratic chairman, said the foundation should reinstate the policies barring foreign donations used from 2009 to 2013. "It doesn't seem right." □

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Blast hits march in eastern Ukraine, leaving 2 dead

JIM HEINTZ
PETER LEONARD
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—A bomb blast killed two at a march in east Ukraine on Sunday on the first anniversary of the ouster of the country's Russia-friendly president, a gruesome counterpoint to the hopes spawned by a cease-fire agreement more than a week ago.

An exchange of prisoners this weekend and acknowledgment by both sides of a commitment to pull back heavy weapons are promising signs that peace may yet prevail, although sporadic exchanges of hostilities between government and separatist forces have yet to subside entirely.

Ukraine's Interior Ministry said the blast at a march in the eastern city of Kharkiv to mark the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich was due to an "unknown explosive device" and was considered a terrorist act. A police



People march in downtown Kiev on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015. In Kiev, thousands participated in a march on Sunday commemorating the events of a year ago and honoring the more than 100 protesters who died during them. President Petro Poroshenko led the ceremony, joined by foreign representatives including the presidents of Poland, Lithuania, Germany, Georgia and the European Union. (AP Photo/Sergei Chuzavkov)

officer was one of the dead and about a dozen people were injured, the ministry said. A spokesman for the national security service, Markian Lubkivskiy, said four suspects had arrested for

the explosion and for planning other attacks. He said in a statement on his Facebook account that the suspects were detained while carrying a portable rocket launcher in their automo-

bile, and appeared to acting under instructions from Russia.

"We can clearly see that the launcher was received from the (Russian city of) Belgorod. Instructions were

received from the Russian Federation," he said in broadcast remarks.

Lubkivskiy did not specify if he was accusing private individuals in Russia or the government in Moscow, but the tenor of his claims illustrates the degree of distrust between Russia and Ukraine.

The violence in Kharkiv comes as Ukraine continues to be riven by tension and bloodshed stemming from Yanukovich's fall. The Ukrainian parliament voted Feb. 22, 2014 to remove him, following months of increasingly violent protests in the capital, Kiev.

The Crimean peninsula, where residents largely regarded his downfall as a coup, was annexed by Russia a month later.

Then armed rebels opposed to the new authorities in Kiev took over large parts of two regions bordering Russia, setting off a war that has killed more than 5,600 people. □

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Blast damages home of Iranian ambassador in Libya

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A bomb blast outside the Iranian ambassador's house in Libya's capital on Sunday which caused minor damage to the empty building was claimed by militants affiliated with the Islamic State group.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham condemned the "terrorist" attack, which she said claimed no lives. She called on political rivals in Libya to form a national unity government to end the country's escalating chaos.

Twitter accounts used by Islamic State supporters said the attack was carried out by the group's branch in Tripoli and posted pictures

from the site of the explosion. There are growing concerns that the Islamic State has spread beyond the battlefields of Iraq and Syria and established a foothold in Libya, just across the sea from Europe. There was no official statement from the group claiming responsibility for the attack. The group claimed responsibility for suicide bombings Friday in eastern Libya that killed at least 40 people in what the group said was retaliation for Egyptian airstrikes against the extremists' aggressive new branch in North Africa.

The Sunday attack only caused minor damage to the home of the Iranian ambassador, who is out of the country, according to a Libyan security of-



Security Personnel inspect the Iranian ambassador's house after it received minor damage from an improvised explosive device placed among garbage bags, in Tripoli, Libya, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015.

(AP Photo/Mohamed Ben Khalifa)

ficial in Tripoli, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to brief reporters.

The Sunni extremist group considers Shiite Muslims, who make up the majority of Iran's population, as apostates. Tehran is a strong backer of both the Syrian and Iraqi governments, which are at war with the Islamic State group.

The Sunday explosion was caused by an improvised explosive device placed among garbage bags outside the ambassador's house. □

Attacks kills 19 people in Iraq

SAMEER N. YACOB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Multiple bombings, including a suicide truck bomb attack on Shiite militiamen, killed 19 people on Sunday in Iraq, as police found four bodies with gunshot wounds in the capital, officials said.

Police officials said the deadliest attack took place Sunday afternoon when a suicide bomber

drove his explosives-laden truck into a checkpoint manned by Shiite militias near the city of Tikrit. Eight militiamen were killed and at least 15 wounded in the attack. Tikrit, which fell under the control of the Islamic State group last summer, is 130 kilometers (80 miles) north of Baghdad. Iraqi security forces and Shiite militiamen now control most of the areas and roads lead-

ing to Tikrit, but have yet to retake the city.

Elsewhere, a bomb exploded near an outdoor market in the town of Yousfiyah, just south of Baghdad, killing two people and wounding 10 others.

Police said another bomb blast on a commercial street in Baghdad's south-eastern district of Zafaraniyah killed two people and wounded six others. □

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Egypt's el-Sissi says need growing for joint Arab force

HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's president said Sunday that the need for a joint Arab military force is growing every day as the region faces the threat of Islamic militancy.

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said in an address to the nation aired by local TV that Egypt's military has no interest in invading or attacking other nations, but will defend Egypt as well as the region "if required and in coordination with our Arab brothers."

A soldier-turned-politician, the Egyptian leader said both Jordan and the United Arab Emirates have offered to dispatch military forces to aid Egypt following last week's beheading in Libya of 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians by Islamic State militants.

Egyptian warplanes struck Islamic State positions in the eastern Libyan city of Darna early last Monday, just hours after the release of a video showing the beheadings. El-Sissi said in his address that the warplanes struck 13 targets which had been "carefully surveyed and studied." He

gave no further details. El-Sissi delivered his recorded comments in a video that showed him seated on an armchair with his desk in the background in



President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi makes a statement in Cairo, Egypt. Sissi said the need for a joint Arab military force is growing every day as the region is faced with the threat of Islamic militancy. The Egyptian leader said both Jordan and the United Arab Emirates have offered to dispatch troops to aid Egypt.
 (AP Photo/Egyptian Presidency)

front of a giant Egyptian white, red and black flag. His comments were made in short clips interrupted by archival footage of him meeting world leaders or speaking on previous occasions as well as Egyptian military servicemen going through their drills.

"The need for a unified Arab force is growing and becoming more pressing

every day," said el-Sissi, who took office in June. As military chief, el-Sissi led the July 2013 ouster of the Islamist Mohammed Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected

president, after millions took to the streets to demand that he step down. El-Sissi's assertion that a joint Arab military force was needed was the first public confirmation by an Arab leader that the creation of such a force was a possibility. He gave no details and did not say whether any concrete steps have been taken.

However, The Associated Press last November reported that Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait were discussing the creation of a military pact to take on Islamic militants, with the possibility of a joint force to intervene around the Middle East.

Last week, security and military officials said discussions of the plan were back on track after a hiatus, with Jordan, France, Italy and Algeria now viewed as possible additional partners.

However, el-Sissi's call in a radio interview aired last week for a U.N.-backed force to deal with the Islamic State in Libya was stymied by the United States and its European allies, who said a political

settlement in Libya, reconciling the North African nation's two rival governments, was a priority.

On Sunday, el-Sissi lavishly praised Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates for their multibillion dollar aid to Egypt following Morsi's ouster. He said the aid was "the main reason that Egypt continued to stand fast against all the challenges and difficulties it faced."

He also sought to assure his oil-rich Gulf Arab allies over audio leaks purporting to show that he and members of his inner circle wanted to milk them for every dollar.

"Our brothers in the Gulf must know very well that we view them with appreciation, respect and love," he said. □

China protests to India over Modi's visit

BEIJING (AP) — China summoned India's ambassador over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to a disputed border region in the Himalayas, a long-festering irritant in relations between the Asian giants.

Modi visited the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh this weekend, an immense territory of nearly 84,000 square kilometers (more than 32,000 square miles) that China claims as part of its Tibet region.

Modi marked the 28th anniversary of Arunachal Pradesh being declared a state, opened a train line and called for hydropower projects to spur regional growth.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said late Saturday that Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin had called in Indian Ambassador Ashok Kantha to express "strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition" to the visit, saying it undermined China's territorial sovereignty.

Liu said China places importance on developing relations with India. It called for New Delhi not to take any action that may complicate the issue and stick to resolving it through bilateral negotiations.

China and India fought a brief but bloody frontier war in 1962. They agreed to a line of actual control in 1996 and began talks on settling the dispute. While analysts see little danger of a conventional war over the border, frequent skirmishes make it difficult to achieve a lasting resolution. □

ing relations with India. It called for New Delhi not to take any action that may complicate the issue and stick to resolving it through bilateral negotiations. China and India fought a brief but bloody frontier war in 1962. They agreed to a line of actual control in 1996 and began talks on settling the dispute. While analysts see little danger of a conventional war over the border, frequent skirmishes make it difficult to achieve a lasting resolution. □

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Lawyer: Jailed Caracas mayor to fight conspiracy charges

JORGE RUEDA
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Lawyers for the jailed opposition mayor of Caracas said this weekend they would ask a judge to dismiss conspiracy charges against him, calling accusations that he participated in a plot to overthrow Venezuela's socialist government "totally unfounded."

Mayor Antonio Ledezma was arrested at his office Thursday by an armed commando unit dressed in camouflage. The detention set off a wave of demonstrations in middle-class Caracas neighborhoods with people denouncing what they called the mayor's "kidnapping."

Ledezma is being held at the Ramo Verde military

prison, the same facility where fellow opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez and the former mayor of San Cristobal, Daniel Ceballos, are being held.

The attorney general's office has said that Ledezma was arrested on the order of a local court for "conspiring to organize and carry out violent acts against the government." Conspiracy is punishable by 8 to 16 years in jail.

On Saturday, Ledezma's lawyer, Omar Estacio, said he would fight the charges against his client.

"We are going to appeal the judge's decision," Estacio told The Associated Press. "The charges are totally unfounded, and this doesn't even take into account that he was detained without an arrest



Miranda State Governor and Opposition leader Henrique Capriles gestures during a press conference in Caracas, Venezuela. Capriles spoke about Thursday's surprise arrest of Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma for allegedly being part of what President Nicolas Maduro says is a U.S.-backed plot to overthrow Venezuela's government.
(AP Photo/Alejandro Cegarra)

order from any authority being presented."

The arrest of the 59-year-old mayor, one of President Nicolas Maduro's fiercest critics, comes as the government struggles to avert a crisis made worse

by a recent tumble in oil prices. The president's approval rating was hovering around 22 percent in January, the lowest in 16 years of socialist rule, as Venezuelans are forced to cope with widespread shortages

and runaway inflation. Maduro has taken to the airwaves to rail against his opponents, accusing them of conspiring with the United States to sabotage the oil-dependent economy and carry out a coup. □

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Canadian businessman released by Cuba

M. WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — A Canadian automobile executive imprisoned in Cuba on corruption charges for more than three years was released Saturday after Cuba's government ended a case that it called a demonstration of the fight against bribery and critics said was a warning against doing business here.

Cy Tokmakjian's case was seen by some as a loose end in the U.S.-Cuba deal

late last year that led to the release of three Cuban intelligence agents in exchange for U.S. contractor Alan Gross and CIA spy Rolando Sarraff Trujillo. Canada and the Vatican hosted key talks in 18 months of negotiations leading up to the exchange, which was accompanied by a joint move to restore full diplomatic relations between the countries.

Canadian officials declined to comment on whether the deal boosted

to their efforts to win freedom for Tokmakjian, who was serving 15 years after his arrest in a 2011 anti-graft drive that swept up Cuban officials and foreign business executives from at least five nations.

Tokmakjian, 74, was sentenced in September and his representatives said that firm managers Claudio Vetere and Marco Puche got shorter sentences. Their whereabouts were not immediately clear Saturday. □



Sail, Snorkel, Swim and Swing with Jolly Pirates

MALMOK - Jolly Pirates, well known for infectious fun during sail and snorkel cruises, has long been a favorite activity among Aruba visitors. Word-of-mouth approval has translated into online praise, and has brought Jolly Pirates and its crew recognition from Trip Advisor ranking Jolly Pirates among the top performing establishments from around the world. Friendly, athletic deckhands will 'wow' you aboard Jolly Pirates Cruises with their hospitality. Once aboard the gleaming teak decks of the twin 85ft teak schooners, the crew will charm you with their interactive hijinks throughout the day. Aruba's most popular

cruises feature sailing, snorkeling, tasty BBQ with full-service Open bar and rope-swinging good times. Jolly Pirates cruises embark daily with a bartender who circulates, takes your order, and brings your drinks to you while you relax and enjoy the ride. "You will enjoy their mast-climbing antics followed by an acrobatic swing into the sea—think Tarzan meets "marine boy." When it's your turn grab hold of the rope and let loose with your best cannonball and remember to grab hold of your swimsuit before you hit the water! Frommer's guide recommends "Lucky ladies double up with Tarzan-boys for a tandem piggyback swing that would make



Jane jealous". Daily sunset sails from 5:30 – 7:30pm with open bar have recently been added to the Pirates trajectory, offering an informal evening at sea for only \$32 per person. Jolly Pirates Cruises will

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Leslie Eisen Abrams honored at the Marriott Ocean Club!



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice guest who is a loyal and friendly

visitor of Aruba, as Distinguished Visitor, at the Marriott Ocean Club. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name

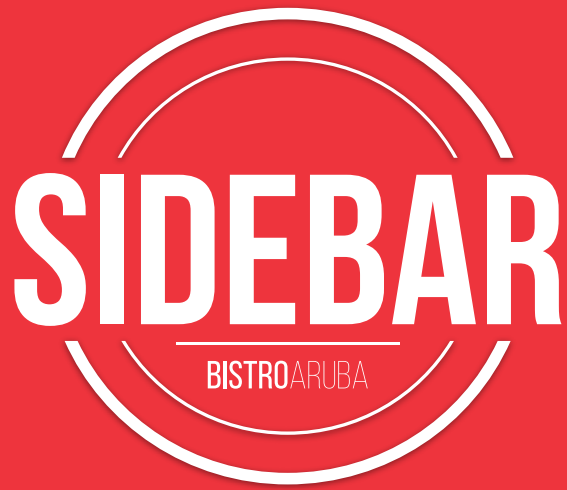
of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honoree was Mrs. Leslie



Eisen Abrams from Westport, Connecticut. Leslie and her family are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean club, and they love Aruba for the climate, beaches, the history, safety, restaurants but most of all they love the friendly Aruban people. The certifi-

cate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with the daughters of Mrs. Abrams, Jacqueline and Geena, Ms. Stephanie Paul and GM Mr. Erwin Noguera representing the Marriott Ocean Club. □





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Sidebar's signature burgers have been named The Sidebar, The Afterburner, The Goliath, The Texan, The Chaser, The Primal and The Italian Job and we are sure that everyone will be able to find a burger that calls out to them. The burgers come with brie cheese, prosciutto, Cheddar cheese, zucchini, sliced steak, Bourbon bbq sauce, dripping gravy and much more, depending on your order. The best thing is that these gourmet beauties cost less than \$ 15.--, so lunch or an evening out won't break the bank.

Feel love for Sidebar's burgers; they are bursting with taste— try them all and find your personal favorite. Come on down to Sidebar and rock your Wildest West with a fabulously tasty burger that packs a punch with its layers of flavor. And if you are not in a burger mood, then Sidebar has a wonderfully varied menu of all kinds of other options, ranging from vegetarian mushrooms and spinach to a zucchini cutlet to lovely salads, homemade soups, pastas and fish dishes.

Wash your lunch or dinner down with a premium, aged Bourbon or try the ice-cold beers on tap to slake your thirst. You can choose between Heineken, Balashi, Chill, Stella Artois, Miller Light or Presidente. Come inside, at the bar or sit outside on the terrace; at Sidebar there will always be a place for you.



Picture: "THE TEXAN" GOURMET BURGER

Loyal Visitors to Aruba Honored as Goodwill Ambassadors!



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of very nice guests who are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as Goodwill Ambassadors, at La Cabana Resort. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees

were Jorge and Celia Frenkiel of Argentina, and George Diffendale of Long Island, New York. The honorees love Aruba for the climate, the beaches, the safety and the restaurants, but most of all they love the friendly Aruban people. The certificate was presented by Mrs. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority with help from Resort Associates. Congratulations! □



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sive developments in drinks and amusement. Live musical entertainers will bring you service with a song at Happy Hour and will belt out tunes without missing a beat or spilling a drop! The combination of location, cool vibes, live music 4 nights a week, happy hour entertainment, and the interaction between staff and guests has not gone unnoticed. Both Endless

Vacation and Cruiseline Magazine named Bugaloe as a top 10 best beach bars in the Caribbean. In the words of The Huffington Post: "Bugaloe is a sexy locale right on the water with that true sense-of-place feel". Reservations are not necessary- just follow your tapping feet down to the music where smiles and fun await you! ☐

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Young Gun



Joey Logano Wins His First Daytona 500

Joey Logano celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the Daytona 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

(AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

VIV BERNSTEIN

© 2015 New York Times

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.

Joey Logano won the Daytona 500 for the first time on Sunday, holding on to

his lead through a caution that stopped the race with three laps remaining.

Logano crossed the finish line under two flags: the checkered one noting his

victory and a yellow caution that came out after about 10 cars crashed behind him on the final lap.

The sprint finish was set up when Justin Allgaier, racing

far behind the leaders, blew a tire and crashed near the finish line with three laps left. The field was held in place for several minutes as track workers cleaned up debris

and removed Allgaier's car from the track, adding to the tension.

Continued on Page 18



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DAYTONA 500

Continued from Page 17

The break also clustered the field tightly behind Logano, who was leading and looking tough to beat when the caution came out.

Kevin Harvick was second and Dale Earnhardt Jr. took third.

The last Daytona 500 of Jeff Gordon's storied career began with his No. 24 Chevrolet on the pole on a warm Sunday afternoon at Daytona International Speedway. Gordon was among the heavy favorites along with his Hendrick Motorsports teammates Jimmie Johnson and Earnhardt Jr., the defending

champion.

"This is an amazing moment," Gordon said before the race. "Like a storybook in the making or happening live. This is a moment I will cherish forever, for sure."

The ending was not; Gordon was pulled into the crash on the final lap and finished 33rd despite leading for 87 of the 200 laps.

The exuberance that typically accompanies the start of the Sprint Cup season was tempered by the absence of driver Kyle Busch, who suffered a compound fracture of his right leg in a gruesome accident during the Xfinity Series race on Saturday. Busch had surgery and is



Joey Logano (22) leads the field during the Daytona 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015. Logano went on to win the race.

(AP Photo/David Graham)

out indefinitely. He was replaced in the No. 18 Toyota by Matt Crafton.

"You feel bad for the sport in general, the fans, Kyle himself more than anything," Harvick said Sunday morning. "Kyle's a big part of this sport and carries a lot of weight and has a lot of fans and a big part of the show and now he's not in the race today and that's a big hit for everybody."

Busch's team owner, Joe Gibbs, met with the news media before the race did not say how long the team anticipated Busch would be out. Gibbs indicated Busch might have to have surgery on his left foot as well at some point.

"Kyle's already telling Sam," Gibbs said of Busch's wife, Samantha Busch. "He said, 'Hey, I just want to get back to racing.'"

It is not likely that he will be back soon. Tony Stewart missed the final 15 races of the 2013 season after he suffered a compound fracture during a dirt-track race in Iowa in August that year, and he is still not completely healed 18 months later. Stewart has had four surgeries already and has another planned.

Last year, Harvick slammed into the same unprotected wall on the interior of the track where Busch crashed, and he later criticized Daytona International Speedway officials for not spending the money to put safer barriers on the walls to cushion race cars in a wreck.

Track president Joie Chitwood III said after Busch's wreck that Daytona officials would install protection on all walls. □

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LeBron, Cavs beat Knicks 101-83 in New York City

NEW YORK (AP) - LeBron James was sitting comfortably on the bench and figured on staying there. Then J.R. Smith and Iman Shumpert punctuated their return to New York with an alley-oop that demanded he stand.

"That was beautiful, that was special," James said. "I was planning on not getting up too many times off the bench, start my treatment session, but that was special."

James and Kyrie Irving each scored 18 points, Smith had 17 and the Cleveland Cavaliers crushed the Knicks 101-83 on Sunday.

James moved past Allen Iverson into 22nd place on the career scoring list, and added seven rebounds and seven assists. Kevin Love finished with 16 points and 16 boards, combining with James and Irving to outscore the inept Knicks in the first half.

Cleveland won for the 16th



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, left, fouls New York Knicks' Jose Calderon during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, in New York. The Cavaliers defeated the Knicks 101-83.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

time in 18 games and got good performances from Smith and Shumpert, who were acquired by the Cavs

on Jan. 5 and have helped solidify a team that was still below .500 shortly after the trade.

"I think it's great," Smith said. "Our mindsets have changed, as opposed to trying to get a win to

expecting to win every game."

The Cavaliers are 35-22 now and have been untouchable since returning from the All-Star break, hammering Washington by 38 on Friday and leading this one by 30.

Shumpert came off the bench for four points, five rebounds and seven assists, one of them when Smith jumped to catch his lob pass and slammed it down with his back to the basket for an 89-59 lead. The two guards hugged, and Smith jumped into James' arms heading back to the bench.

"I even told him in the time-out, 'Thank you for the price of admission,'" Cavs coach David Blatt said. "That was special and really nice that it was here in New York."

Langston Galloway scored 13 for the Knicks, who shot 3 for 19 from 3-point range and lost their seventh straight. □



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Albrecht helps Michigan upset No. 24 Ohio State 64-57

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) - Whatever the postseason holds, Michigan at least can relish dinging rival Ohio State's prospects. Spike Albrecht scored 16 points to help the Wolverines upset the 24th-ranked Buckeyes 64-57 on Sunday. The Buckeyes (19-8, 8-6 Big Ten) trailed by as many as 17 points in the second half before closing to 49-46 with seven minutes left with a

14-0 run. Zak Irvin answered with a 3-pointer a minute later and Ohio State never got closer than four points the rest of the day. "This felt like a rivalry game," said Albrecht, who added five assists. "The emotion was there." D'Angelo Russell had 16 points and Keita Bates-Diop scored 12 as the Buckeyes lost their second straight. Irvin added 15, seven rebounds and four

assists for the injury-depleted Wolverines (14-13, 7-8), who defeated a Top 25 team for the first time this season. Albrecht and Irvin each played 38 minutes and fellow starters Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman and Aubrey Dawkins were on the floor for 37 and 34, respectively. Ohio State helped by making just 10 first-half field goals (48 percent). The Buckeyes won 71-52



Ohio State forward Keita Bates-Diop makes a layup during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against Michigan, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, in Ann Arbor, Mich. Michigan defeated Ohio State 64-57. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

on Jan. 13 after forcing 13 turnovers and holding the Wolverines to 34 percent shooting, but Michigan was much sharper against the press Sunday. They turned the ball over only nine times and none of the miscues shifted momentum. "Not turning the ball over was huge for us," said coach John Beilein, whose team also had 13 assists. "(Thirteen assists) means you made two people guard you and you got somebody open." Ohio State coach Thad Matta said he was shocked by his team's early performance, especially after having eight days to prepare. "It seemed like we were on our heels too much defensively," he said. "I was disappointed we didn't fight a little harder." The Buckeyes are 1-8 this season when trailing at halftime. They were better

on the offensive glass in the second half and reduced their giveaways. Meanwhile, Michigan stuck to what worked in the first 20 minutes. The Wolverines milked the clock on nearly every possession and rarely attempted a field goal with more than 10 seconds to shoot. They went scoreless for more than seven minutes midway through the period before Irvin ended the drought with his third 3-pointer. Ohio State had a three-minute scoreless streak and Irvin and Albrecht each scored to push the lead to 60-50 with less than a minute to play. The Buckeyes ended the game with a 36-28 advantage on the glass but they only had five more offensive rebounds than the Wolverines, who got two big ones from Max Biefeldt in the closing minutes to stay ahead. □



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English Roundup:

Liverpool beats Southampton as Tottenham draws

JACK BEZANTS

Associated Press

SOUTHAMPTON, England

(AP) — Liverpool moved two points off the top four in the Premier League with a 2-0 win at Southampton on Sunday, while Tottenham fought back for a 2-2 draw

Saturday.

A brilliant long-range strike from Philippe Coutinho put Liverpool ahead after three minutes, with the Brazil international's effort beating Southampton goalkeeper Fraser Forster from 25 yards and going in off the cross-

of the area after Matt Targett failed to clear Alberto Moreno's cross.

"It is an excellent win, defensively we were very strong," Rodgers said, before refusing to be drawn on his side's chances of usurping United. "It is just

Mauricio Pochettino's side came from two goals down to draw 2-2 against West Ham at White Hart Lane. Cheikhou Kouyate and Diafra Sakho had put West Ham 2-0 ahead before Danny Rose's mis-hit from distance went in after 81 minutes and Tottenham were suddenly galvanized. Harry Kane won a penalty after going down from a challenge by Alex Song

but West Ham goalkeeper Adrian saved the spot kick in the sixth minute of added time.

But Kane was first to the rebound and duly converted with the game's last kick. "I think we showed character — that's the most important thing," Pochettino said. "Going into the last 10 minutes at 2-0 down, to finish the game 2-2 is something to be proud of."



Liverpool's Raheem Sterling, center, scores a goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Southampton and Liverpool at St Mary's Stadium, Southampton, England, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015. (AP Photo/Tim Ireland)

with West Ham.

The victory moves Liverpool into sixth and Brendan Rodgers' side is now two points behind Manchester United, who still occupies the fourth and final Champions League position, despite losing 2-1 at Swansea on

bar.

Southampton had most of the possession in the second half but could not break down Liverpool's stern defense.

And Raheem Sterling secured the win in the 73rd, lashing in from the edge

going to be small steps for us. We have organised the team in a different way and we have been playing two or three times a week now for the last four months and today was a huge win." Liverpool overtook Tottenham in the table after

Spanish Roundup:

Sociedad beats Sevilla 4-3 in league play

JOSEPH WILSON

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Real Sociedad scored in the 90th minute to beat Sevilla 4-3 in an eventful Spanish league match on Sunday.

Athletic Bilbao also needed a late strike from Ariz Aduriz with four minutes to play to edge Rayo Vallecano 1-0 for its first home win in six rounds.

Villarreal, likewise, eked out a 1-0 win over visitors Eibar thanks to Luciano Vietto's second-half strike.

Sociedad midfielder Xabi Prieto headed in his second goal of the game from a corner kick to complete the comeback after Sevilla led 3-2 with eight minutes left.

The home side had opened

through Imanol Agirretxe after defender Alejandro Arribas lost sight of him and the ball in the 16th.

Timothee Kolodziejczak leveled two minutes before halftime before Prieto restored Sociedad's lead with a penalty in the 48th. Sevilla responded with goals from Carlos Bacca and Kevin Gameiro to lead 3-2, but Arribas compounded his poor showing with an own goal in the 82nd before Prieto got the winner.

"The game was there for the taking," Sevilla coach Unai Emery said. "But we let it slip away in the details."

The defeat left Sevilla in fifth place, five points behind Valencia in the final Champions League spot,

while Sociedad climbed into 10th.

Sixth-place Villarreal pulled to within one point of Sevilla after Vietto broke through in the 71st when his shot slipped through the grasp of goalkeeper Xabi Irueta.

Eibar's struggles since the winter break continued as the promoted club lost its fifth consecutive game to slip into 11th.

Aduriz took Bilbao's winner after he combined with left back Mikel Balenziaga to finally break down Rayo's defense, as the Basques moved into 12th.

Later, Real Madrid visits Elche looking to take advantage of Barcelona's 1-0 loss to Malaga on Saturday and extend its league lead.



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Injury Report:

Heat say Chris Bosh will miss remainder of the season

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

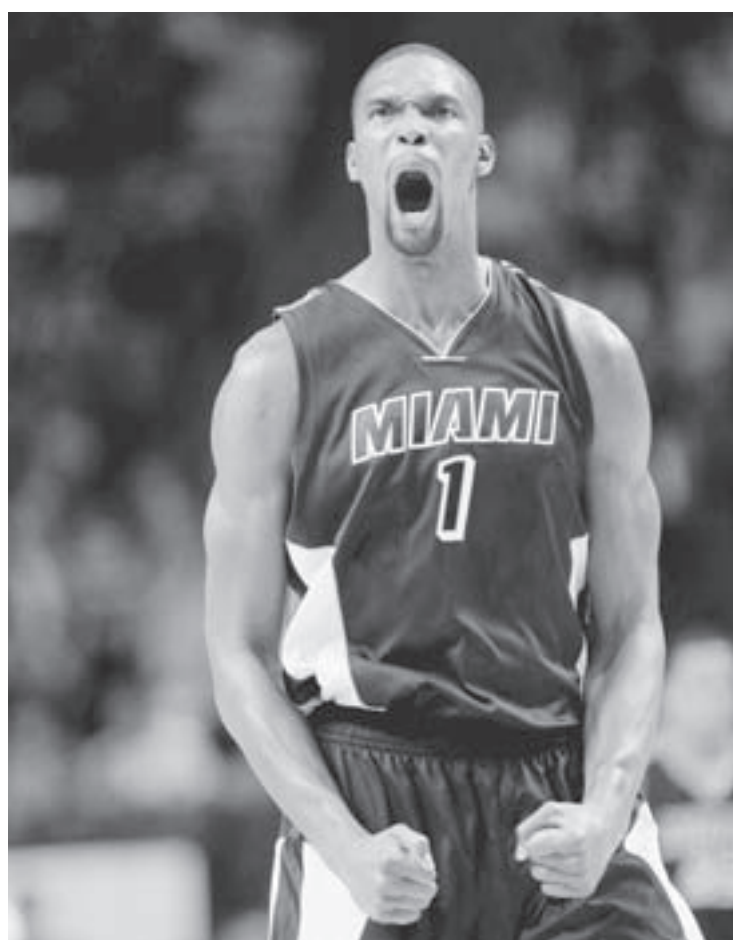
MIAMI (AP) — All-Star forward Chris Bosh of the Miami Heat will miss at least the remainder of the NBA season because of blood clots on one of his lungs.

The problem, if it had not been caught, could have killed the 30-year-old Bosh, who had been fighting pain in his side and back for several days.

The team said this weekend that Bosh "is receiving care under the guidance of Miami Heat team physicians" at a hospital, adding that "his prognosis is good."

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra sounded upbeat about Bosh's recovery. The team received the news on Saturday, Spoelstra said, and welcomed the clarity after a frightening couple of days.

"His health will be restored," Spoelstra said before Miami played host to New Orleans. "That's the most important thing. That's bigger than basket-



Miami Heat center Chris Bosh celebrates after scoring during an NBA basketball game in Miami. Team officials announced this weekend Bosh will miss at least the remainder of the NBA season because of blood clots on one of his lungs.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

ball."

Spoelstra and Heat guard

Dwyane Wade visited Bosh on Saturday.

"It's been very emotional for all of us," Spoelstra said.

"I was in constant contact with CB. But he didn't know either until they were able to go through all the tests and see all the specialists. ... I can't imagine how tough it was for Chris and (his wife) Adrienne."

Bosh is the second NBA player whose final game this season was the All-Star Game. New York's Carmelo Anthony was shut down for knee surgery this week, a move that was long expected.

Bosh's situation was anything but. It was nothing short of a shock to the Heat, who entered Saturday with a 23-30 record and holding onto the No. 7 spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Losing him becomes the latest — and by far the biggest — blow in a season filled with tumult for the Heat, reminiscent in some ways to when All-Star center Alonzo Mourning was forced to miss most of the 2000-01 season because

of a kidney disease that eventually necessitated a transplant.

Bosh averaged 21.1 points and 7 rebounds for the Heat this season, his first in a five-year deal signed this past summer that will pay him \$118 million.

Bosh was part of the ballyhooed free-agent haul Miami landed in 2010, when he and LeBron James were brought in to play alongside Wade and form one of the most star-studded trios in league history.

They were together for four seasons, the breakup coming this past summer when James elected to go back to Cleveland. They went to the NBA Finals four times, winning two.

In cases like these, it's common for the clots to have worked their way from the legs to the lungs, a dangerous occurrence. Just days ago, such a medical event led to the sudden death of former NBA star Jerome Kersey, who was only 52 and showed no signs of trouble. □

Player Report:

Sabathia hopes skills recover, along with his knee

BILLY WITZ
© 2015 New York Times

TAMPA, Fla. — C.C. Sabathia looked as imposing as ever as he walked into the New York Yankees' clubhouse Saturday morning. Whether he returns to being that type of figure on the mound remains an open question. Having lost a career-high 13 games in a poor 2013 and had his velocity fall in 2014 before his season was cut short by knee surgery, Sabathia acknowledged that he had plenty to prove.

"Of course I do," said Sa-

bathia, who made only eight starts last season.

"Not being able to play last year and performing horribly in 2013, I have a lot to prove."

But Sabathia — to whom the Yankees owe \$48 million over the next two seasons, with a vesting option worth another \$25 million for 2017 based on his health — will have to deal with a diminished fastball and a degenerative knee.

Sabathia spent several days a week at Yankee Stadium during the off-season rehabilitating the knee,

which also required three platelet-rich plasma shots after his season-ending operation, an arthroscopic procedure in July. He plans to receive another shot at the All-Star break.

Sabathia, who is 17-17 with a 4.87 earned run average over the past two seasons, said he did not consider having microfracture surgery, a riskier option.

"It is kind of one of those things where it's a bum knee," he said, "but it feels good right now, so I'm ready to go."

Sabathia, who said he had

gained about 10 pounds over the winter, also said that when he had his knee examined Friday, there was no fluid in it.

Later Saturday, Sabathia looked like his familiar self — with the bill of his cap askew and his high leg kick and fluid delivery — as he threw off an outdoor mound for the first time in Tampa. He threw 25 pitches, all fastballs and changeups.

"It felt a relief," he said.

Sabathia understands that even if his knee is not a problem, he will have to become a different pitch-

er. He will no longer be able to thrive with an overpowering fastball, a subject he has broached with Andy Pettitte, who pitched effectively for the Yankees past age 40.

"This is my 15th season in the big leagues, so my velocity is what it is," Sabathia said. "I need my control where it needs to be. My two-seamer is good; my changeup is better than it's been. I've been talking to Andy about how he attacked batters later in his career, so I think I've got a pretty good plan." □



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Tech Talk:

Superfish points fingers over ad software security flaws

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

A little-known Silicon Valley startup was caught in a firestorm of criticism this week for making software that exposed Lenovo laptop users to hackers bent on stealing personal information. But Superfish Inc. has also won praise for producing visual search technology that many see as the next big thing in online shopping.

Is Superfish an Internet pioneer or a computer-user's privacy nightmare?

Either way, don't expect a mea culpa. Faced with a withering publicity barrage that could jeopardize any startup's future, Superfish CEO Adi Pinhas blamed another company for the security flaw and complained about what he called "false and misleading statements made by some media commentators and bloggers."

Researchers revealed Thursday that some laptops sold by China's Lenovo, the world's biggest PC maker, had a security flaw that could let hackers impersonate shopping, banking and other websites and steal

users' credit card numbers and other personal data.

Lenovo has since apologized for pre-loading the computers with Superfish's visual search software, which captures images that users view online, such as a sofa or pair of shoes, and then shows them ads for similar products. By itself, the image recognition algorithm might not be a security risk. But the problem arose because Superfish used software from another company that can eavesdrop when Internet users visit secure or encrypted websites.

That software replaced the encryption code on websites with its own easily-hacked code, according to several researchers. The Department of Homeland Security issued an alert Friday saying Lenovo customers should remove Superfish software because of the hacking dangers.

Superfish on Friday insisted its own code is safe and said the security flaw was "introduced unintentionally by a third party." In an email to The Associated Press, Pinhas identified that party as Komodia, a tech startup based in Israel that

makes software for other companies, including tools for companies that show online ads and for programs parents can use to monitor their children's Web surfing.

Some experts say the prob-

lem may extend beyond Lenovo. The Komodia tool could imperil any company or program using the same code.

"It's not just Superfish, other companies may be vulnerable," said Robert Graham, CEO of Errata Se-

curity. Komodia CEO Barak Weichselbaum declined comment Friday.

Launched in Israel by Pinhas and fellow entrepreneur Michael Chertok, Superfish is among a handful of companies pio-

perfish's visual recognition algorithms can analyze a picture and search through a database for similar images, even if they're not labeled with descriptive text. "I've been impressed. They're probably one of the best technologies that's out there," said Sucharita Mulpuru, a Forrester Research analyst.

Consumers will see more of this in the future, said Yory Wurmser at the eMarketer research firm. Amazon.com Inc. built a similar shopping feature into its Fire smartphone last year. Google Inc., Facebook Inc., Pinterest and other tech giants are investing heavily in visual search.

Now based in Palo Alto, California, Pinhas has called Superfish a "deep technology company." But Superfish critics call its products "ad-ware" or worse. Several Internet message boards are filled with complaints that an earlier Superfish program, WindowShopper, bombarded users with annoying ads and diverted them to websites they didn't want to visit. Pinhas didn't respond to an emailed question about WindowShopper. □



People walk past a Lenovo flagship experience store in Beijing, China. Security researchers have revealed that some computers sold by China's Lenovo, the world's biggest PC maker, had a major security hole that would let any garden-variety hacker impersonate shopping, banking and other websites and steal users' credit card numbers and other personal data.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

neering the use of "visual recognition" technology, which industry experts say could revolutionize online shopping by letting people search online with pictures as easily as they now search with words. Su-

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College, Poetry and Purpose



FRANK BRUNI

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PHILADELPHIA - Over four decades at two universities, Anne Hall has taught thousands of students, enough to know that they come to college for a variety of reasons, with a variety of attitudes. Many are concerned only with jobs. Some are concerned chiefly with beer.

All would like A's. And too many get them, she said, even from her, because a professor standing up to grade inflation is in a lonely place.

But what, in an overarching sense, should students be after? What's the highest calling of higher education?

When I asked her this Monday, she shot me a look of exasperation, although it gave way quickly to a smile. And I remembered that smile from 30 years earlier, when she would expound on Othello's corrosive jealousy, present Lady Macbeth as the dark ambassador of guilt's insidious stamina and show those of us in her class that with careful examination and unhurried reflection, we could find in Shakespeare just about all of human life and human wisdom: every warning we needed to hear, every joy we needed to cultivate.

She answered my question about college's purpose, but not right away and not glibly, because rushed thinking and glibness are precisely what she believes education should be a bulwark against. She's right.

I introduced her in a column last week, writing that when I was recently pressed to describe a transformative educational experience, what came to mind were her voice and her animation as she read aloud the wondrous words of "King Lear."

Her field is Renaissance poetry. I studied that and Shakespeare's plays with her when I was an English major at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in the mid-1980s. I never got to know her well, though. I didn't keep in touch.

But after my column appeared, she sent me an email. It included a lament about changes in the humanities that made me want to hear more. I was curious to know what the professor who was the highlight of my time in college thought of college today.

So I visited her in Philadelphia, where she has been a lecturer

at the University of Pennsylvania since 1998. She's 69.

She expressed regret about how little an English department's offerings today resemble those from the past.

"There's a lot of capitalizing on what is fashionable," she said. Survey courses have fallen out of favor, as have courses devoted to any one of the "dead white men," she said.

"Chaucer has become Chaucer and ..." she said. "Chaucer and Women in the Middle Ages. Chaucer and Animals in the Middle Ages. Shakespeare has become Shakespeare and Film, which in my cranky opinion becomes Film, not Shakespeare." She didn't want to single out any particular course for derision but encouraged me to look at what Penn is offering this semester. There's "Pulp Fictions: Popular Romance From Chaucer to Tarantino." Also "Sex and the City: Women, Novels and Urban Life." "Global Feminisms." "Comic Books and Graphic Novels." "Psychoanalysis, Literature and Film." "Literatures of Psychoanalysis."

And while she applauds the attempt to engage students and diversify instruction, she worries about an intellectual vogue and academic sensibility that place no one masterpiece, master, perspective or even manner of speech above others.

Not long ago, she said, she asked students to try to go for an entire class without letting the word "like" drop needlessly - part conjunction, part stutter - into their speech. One of them responded that Hall was a "cultural capitalist" defending her particular "cultural capital."

She has qualms about the way a university now markets campus amenities to students and marvels at "how many sites there are for feeding them." The increased weight given to the evaluations that they fill out can be a disincentive for professors to be rigorous.

"The student became the customer who's always right," she said.

And yet, she said, there are still many earnest young men and women who come before her wanting nothing more or less than to be bigger, better. She praised an undergraduate business major in the class that she is currently teaching, "Poetry and Politics in Ancient Greece."

"She said that going to college develops something in you that's like a muscle, in the same way that when you go out and play tennis or whatever sport, you develop certain muscles," Hall told me, adding that she agreed with the student.

That brought Hall to her own answer about college's mission: "It is for developing the muscle of thoughtfulness, the use of which will be the greatest pleasure in life and will also show what it means to be fully human." □



American Democracy Is in Recession



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

© 2015 New York Times

Every month now we get treated to another anti-Semitic blast from Turkey's leadership, which seems to be running some kind of slur-of-the-month club. Who knew that Jews all over the world were busy trying to take down President Recep Tayyip Erdogan? Last week, it was Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's turn to declare that Turkey would not "succumb to the Jewish lobby" - among others supposedly trying to topple Erdogan, the *Hurriyet Daily News* reported. This was after Erdogan had suggested that domestic opponents to the ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP, were "cooperating with the Mossad," Israel's intelligence arm. So few Jews, so many governments to topple.

Davutoglu's and Erdogan's cheap, crude anti-Semitic tropes, which Erdogan now relies on regularly to energize his base, are disgusting. For the great nation of Turkey, though, they're part of a wider tragedy. It is really hard to say anymore that Erdogan's Turkey is a democracy. Even worse, it is necessary to say that Turkey's drift away from democracy is part of a much larger global trend today: Democracy is in recession.

As the Stanford University democracy expert Larry Diamond argues in an essay entitled "Facing Up to the Democratic Recession" in the latest issue of the *Journal of Democracy*: "Around 2006, the expansion of freedom and democracy in the world came to a prolonged halt. Since 2006, there has been no net expansion in the number of electoral democracies, which has

oscillated between 114 and 119 (about 60 percent of the world's states). ... The number of both electoral and liberal democracies began to decline after 2006 and then flattened out. Since 2006 the average level of freedom in the world has also deteriorated slightly."

Since 2000, added Diamond, "I count 25 breakdowns of democracy in the world - not only through blatant military or executive coups, but also through subtle and incremental degradations of democratic rights and procedure. ... Some of these breakdowns occurred in quite low-quality democracies; yet in each case, a system of reasonably free and fair multiparty electoral competition was either displaced or degraded to a point well below the minimal standards of democracy."

Vladimir Putin's Russia and Erdogan's Turkey are the poster children for this trend, along with Venezuela, Thailand, Botswana, Bangladesh and Kenya. In Turkey, Diamond writes, the AKP has steadily extended "partisan control over the judiciary and the bureaucracy, arresting journalists and intimidating dissenters in the press and academia, threatening businesses with retaliation if they fund opposition parties, and using arrests and prosecutions in cases connected to alleged coup plots to jail and remove from public life an implausibly large number of accused plotters. This has coincided with a stunning and increasingly audacious concentration of personal power by ... Erdogan." Rule of law in Turkey is being seriously eroded.

Meanwhile, Freedom House, a watchdog group, found that, from 2006-14, many more countries declined in freedom than improved. This trend has been particularly pronounced in sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa, where declining transparency, crumbling rule of law and rising corruption are becoming the norm.

Why this trend? One reason, says Diamond, is today's autocrats are fast learners and adapters. They

have developed and shared "new technologies of censorship and legal strategies to restrict civil society [groups] and ban international assistance to them," and we haven't responded with new strategies of our own. Also, old habits of corruption and abuse of power went into hiding during the 1990s and 2000s, when post-Cold War democracy was ascendant, "but now corrupt autocrats feel the heat is off and they can rule as nastily and greedily as they want."

Moreover, China, which has no democracy standards or problems with corruption abroad, has displaced the U.S. as the most valued foreign aid provider in much of Africa, while Russia has become more aggressive in undermining virtually every democratic tendency on its borders. Finally, post-9/11, we let the "war on terror" supplant democracy promotion as our top foreign policy priority, so any autocrat who collared terrorists won a get-out-of-jail-free-card from America.

But, Diamond adds, "perhaps the most worrisome dimension of the democratic recession has been the decline of democratic efficacy, energy, and self-confidence" in America and the West at large. After years of hyperpolarization, deadlock and corruption through campaign financing, the world's leading democracy is increasingly dysfunctional, with government shutdowns and the inability to pass something as basic as a budget.

"The world takes note of all this," says Diamond. "Authoritarian state media gleefully publicize these travails of American democracy in order to discredit democracy in general and immunize authoritarian rule against U.S. pressure."

Diamond urges democrats not to lose faith. Democracy, as Churchill noted, is still the worst form of government - except for all the others. And it still fires the imagination of people like no other system. But that will only stay true if the big democracies maintain a model worth following. I wish that were not so much in question today. □

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Surging dollar takes bite out of US corporate profits

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The biggest obstacle for Coca-Cola and Pepsi these days isn't tied to taste tests, the declining popularity of sugary drinks or even their

plaint this earnings season. Global corporations from Avon Products to Yum Brands have said their quarterly results would have been much better if it hadn't been for the rising dollar. For some, the cur-

for corporate profits even though economists expect the U.S. economy to pick up speed

Back in October, analysts estimated that companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index would post profit

percent in the first quarter. Today, they expect them to shrink more than 2 percent over that same period.

A strong U.S. dollar might seem like a badge of honor, a reflection of U.S. economic power in the global economy, but for much of Corporate America, it's bad for business. Almost half of all revenue for companies in the S&P 500 comes from outside the United States, mainly Europe and Asia. So when the dollar rises against the euro, it hurts in two ways: Prices of American-made goods become more expensive to customers in Europe, and goods that move off foreign shelves translate into fewer dollars, showing up as lower revenues and earnings on quarterly financial reports.

Take Avon Products, a company that depends on customers in Latin America for nearly half of its sales. The cosmetics company reported that its revenue fell 12 percent and adjusted earnings sank 41 percent. Erase the dollar's move against foreign currencies and the picture looks entirely different. Revenue would have climbed 5 percent, and adjusted earnings would have soared 29 percent.

At Procter & Gamble, revenue fell 4 percent in the quarter but would have increased 2 percent if the dollar had stayed put. And the maker of Tide detergent and Pampers diapers doesn't think the drag from the dollar is over yet. It estimates that the curren-

cy's rise will shave \$1.4 billion from its profit over the course of the full year.

"This is the most significant fiscal year currency impact we have ever incurred," said P&G's chief financial officer, Jon Moeller, in a conference call discussing the latest results.

The list of companies complaining of currency swings includes nearly every major industry. Microsoft, Google and other tech giants have taken a hit along with Bristol Myers Squibb, Pfizer and other drugmakers. Even Apple, which turned in a record profit of \$18 billion in its latest quarter, said the rising dollar cost the company \$2 billion in sales. Electric-car maker Tesla, the hotel chain Hilton, and the navigation device maker Garmin have joined the ranks of the dollar debilitated. On Thursday, Wal-Mart slashed its sales forecast for the rest of the year in half, largely because of the dollar.

"A lot of the companies I follow have cut their earnings guidance for the year, and it was all a result of FX," said Bill Stone, chief investment strategist at PNC Asset Management, using Wall Street's shorthand for currency moves — foreign exchange. "It wasn't their underlying business that was the problem. It was just FX." Overseas sales used to provide a boost to U.S. companies. When the economy floundered during the Great Recession, firms expanded their businesses abroad, harnessing faster growth across Asia and South America. □



A worker carries a crate of Pepsi for delivery in Bangkok, Thailand. When beverage giants Coca-Cola and PepsiCo turned in their quarterly results last week, both blamed the dollar for cutting into their profits because, like most U.S. corporations, they rely on overseas sales.

(AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)

century-long rivalry. It's the surging U.S. dollar. The two soda giants rely on overseas customers for roughly half of their revenue. When they turned in their quarterly results last week, both reported a drop in sales. The strong dollar made all the difference: strip it out and shrinking sales suddenly rise. The dollar has been a source of constant com-

pany's strength has meant the difference between a profit and a loss.

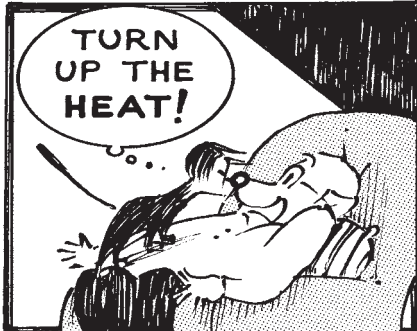
"It has really hit earnings," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank.

Over the past year, the dollar has climbed 17 percent against major currencies. The surging dollar and plunging oil prices are the main reasons analysts keep cutting their forecasts

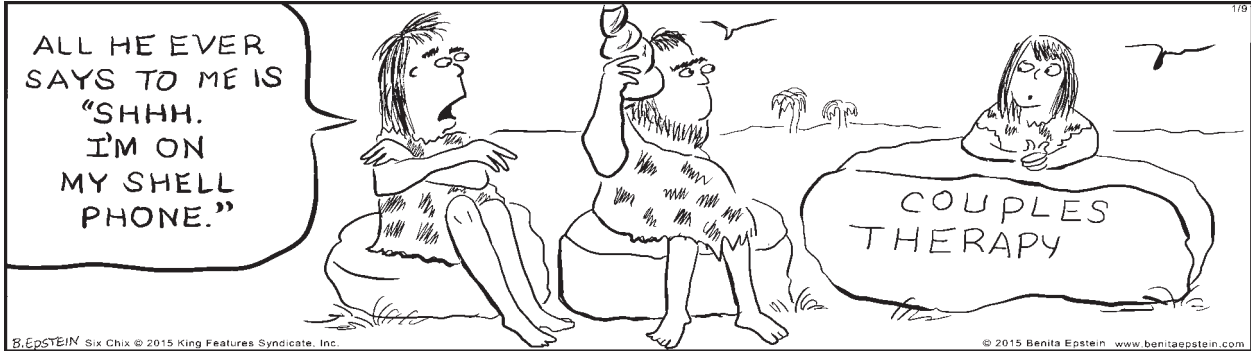
growth of 11 percent for the final three months of 2014. That forecast now looks overly optimistic. With only a handful of companies left to report, corporate profits are on track to rise more than 7 percent, according to S&P Capital IQ.

Forecasts for this year have taken a much bigger hit. In December, for example, analysts projected that profits would increase 9

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

7			3	4				8
6		1				3		9
				7				
		9						2
1				8				6
3						1		
			5					
9		2				7		3
8				9	1			4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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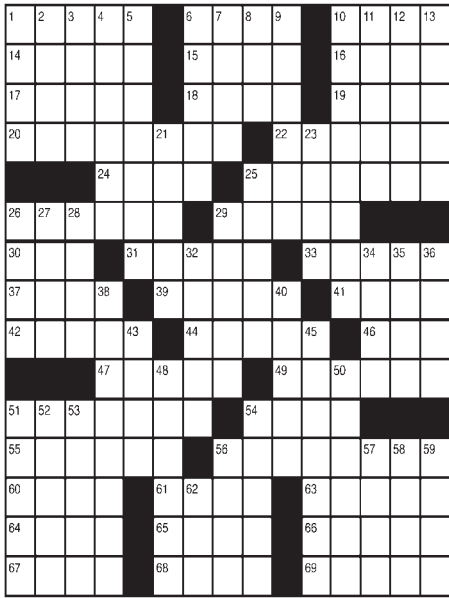
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	4	9	5	6	8	1	7	2
6	8	1	2	7	9	4	5	3
7	2	5	4	3	1	8	6	9
9	3	6	1	8	5	2	4	7
1	7	4	9	2	6	5	3	8
8	5	2	3	4	7	9	1	6
4	9	7	8	5	3	6	2	1
5	6	8	7	1	2	3	9	4
2	1	3	6	9	4	7	8	5

ACROSS

- 1 Intelligent
6 Keep __ on; watch closely
10 Strike with an open hand
14 External
15 Follow orders
16 Singer Perry __
17 Island greeting
18 Abound
19 Smell
20 Fixed
22 Irish accent
24 Close angrily
25 Hangs around
26 Prepared
potatoes, often
29 Actress Berry
30 Opening trio
31 Track events
33 Build
37 Messy person
39 Rump __; cut of beef
41 Store event
42 Arrange
44 Influence; pull
46 Source of light and heat
47 Wall recesses
49 Gave an exam to
51 __ Ann; classic little girl's doll
54 "All roads lead to __"
55 Blazing
56 Rather lilac in color
60 Newborn colt
61 Ignore intentionally
63 Shun a big wedding
64 Fuss & bother
65 __ as a boil
66 Septic tank alternative
67 One-dish meal
68 Grows gray
69 Exchange
- DOWN
- 1 Fly high
2 Stubborn animal
3 Sitting upon



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/9/15

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

GUMS	CHAFE	UTAH
UPON	RIDER	MAGI
LOVE	ELMER	PLOD
PREEMPT	BESIEGE	
	RUE	OLDER
OARED	RYE	TEACH
SLED	BUS	MUSCLE
CAB	RATT	TRAP
MAE		
AMELIA	EAT	HERD
ROLES	ARM	MASKS
	NERDS	PUB
PROGRAM	MAGICAL	
RENT	CIGAR	TAPE
EACH	ERASE	AGES
PREY	RESTS	TEST

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1/9/15

- 43 "The Road Not Taken" or "Paul Revere's Ride"
45 Violent storm
48 Ukraine seaport
50 eBay lister
51 Pool toys
52 Under way
- 53 Air freshening spray
54 Hillbillies
56 Unsullied
57 Cedar Rapids' state
58 Ran fast
59 In this place
62 Holiday drink

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Spacewalking astronauts route cable in 1st of 3 jobs

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) —

Spacewalking astronauts routed more than 300 feet (90 meters) of cable outside the International Space Station on Saturday, tricky and tiring advance work for the arrival of new American-made crew capsules.

It was the first of three spacewalks planned for NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Terry Virts over the coming week.

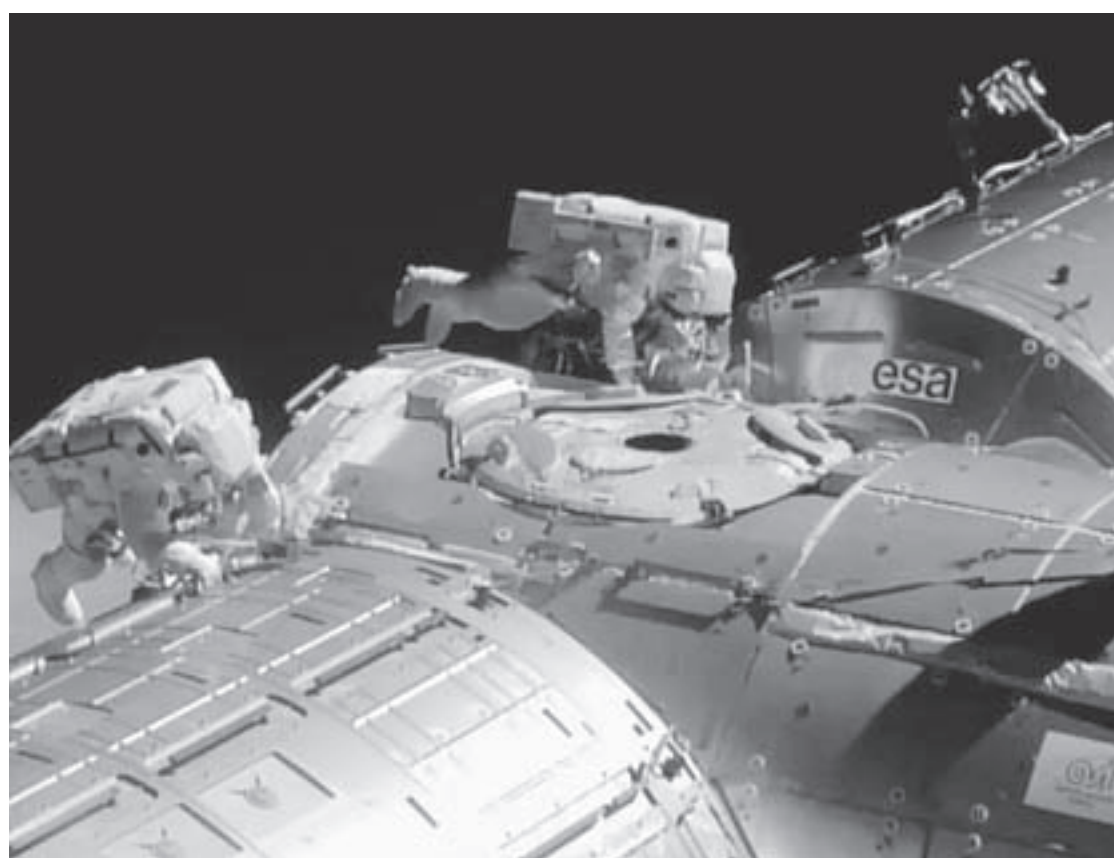
Altogether, Wilmore and Virts have 764 feet (233 meters) of cable to run outside the space station. They got off to a strong start Saturday, rigging eight power and data lines, or about 340 feet (104 meters). The longest single stretch was

43 feet (13 meters).

"Broadening my resume," Virts observed.

NASA considers this the most complicated cable-routing job in the 16-year history of the space station. Equally difficult will be running cable on the inside of the complex.

The extensive rewiring is needed to prepare for NASA's next phase 260 miles (418 kilometers) up: the 2017 arrival of the first commercial spacecraft capable of transporting astronauts to the orbiting lab. NASA is paying Boeing and SpaceX to build the capsules and fly them from Cape Canaveral, which hasn't seen a manned launch since the shuttle fleet retired in 2011. Instead, Russia is doing all



Astronaut Barry "Butch" Wilmore, left, and Terry Virts begin wiring the International Space Station in preparation for the arrival in July of the international docking port for the Boeing and Space-X commercial crew vehicles early Saturday morning Feb. 21, 2015.

(AP Photo/NASA-TV)

the taxi work — for a steep price. The first of two docking ports for the Boeing and SpaceX vessels — still under development — is due to arrive in June. Even more spacewalks will be needed to set everything up.

There were so many cables that NASA color-coded them. That helped the spacewalkers only so much; they expected a lighter blue for one of the lines.

"I worked up a lather on that one," Wilmore in-

formed Mission Control. After successfully attaching the first four cables, he added, "I've got to cool down." Mission Control left two cables — or about 24 feet (7.3 meters) worth — for the next spacewalk coming up Wednesday. □

January was 2nd warmest on record globally

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Last month was the second warmest January on record globally, behind 2007, with temperatures 0.77 Celsius (1.4 degrees Fahrenheit) above the average for the 20th century, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Meteorologists calculated that the United States in January was 1.6 Celsius (2.9 degrees Fahrenheit) warm-

er than normal, making it the 24th warmest January since 1880, even though there were record snowfalls in parts of the U.S. north-east.

China had its warmest January since that nation started keeping records in 1961 with last month 1.9 degrees Celsius (3.4 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than normal.

Some areas in southern Siberia and far eastern Russia were more than 5 degrees

Celsius (9 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than normal for January.

Parts of Norway were 5 to 7 degrees Celsius warmer than normal (9 to 11 degrees Fahrenheit), while Eastern Austria was 3.8 degrees Celsius (6.8 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than normal.

Northern Australia, eastern Canada, and parts of the southern and eastern United States were cooler than normal, but not too much cooler. □

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Feud grows between father and partner of Bobbi Kristina

J. LANDRUM JR.
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — While Bobbi Kristina Brown fights for her life, a feud has erupted over whether her partner can visit her in the hospital.

The only daughter of the late singer Whitney Houston has been hospitalized at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta since being found unresponsive Jan. 31 in a tub at her Georgia home.

A lawyer for Bobbi Kristina's father, Bobby Brown, said in a statement late Saturday that Bobbi Kristina's partner, Nick Gordon, was offered an opportunity to potentially visit her if he agreed to meet certain conditions.

But Gordon's attorneys said Sunday that Brown has consistently denied Gordon permission to visit. They said they advised Gordon to refuse the conditions set by Brown. The conditions have not been made public. Gordon has repeatedly offered to discuss the issue privately with Brown, rather than through lawyers.

"Those offers have also been rejected," said Gordon's lawyers, Randy Kessler and Joe Habachy, in the statement. "We hope Mr. Brown has a change of heart."

Houston brought Gordon into her household as an orphan at the age of 12, raising him and her daughter after divorcing Bobby Brown in 2007.

Relations between Gordon and some other family members soured last year: He remains subject to a protective order barring him from being within 200 feet of Bobbi Kristina's aunt, Patricia Houston. □

'Grey' dominates weekend box office

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Fifty Shades of Grey" didn't relinquish control of the box office. Universal's erotic drama starring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan earned \$23.2 million at No. 1 in its second weekend at the box office, according to studio estimates Sunday. Despite the victory, "Fifty Shades of Grey" plummeted a steep 75 percent from its record-breaking \$93 million debut last weekend. "There was a pent-up demand and excitement for 'Fifty Shades of Grey' last weekend, so this was its destiny after it broke the box-office record for the biggest opening in February and didn't have the added bonus of a holiday weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box office firm Rentrak.

The action spy film "Kingsman: The Secret Service"

and the family friendly "The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water" similarly maintained their respective No. 2 and No. 3 spots at the box office in their second weekend.

racing tale "McFarland, USA" launched at No. 4 with \$11.3 million. Lionsgate's high school comedy "The DUFF" debuted at No. 5 with \$11 million. Paramount's wacky sequel



Dakota Johnson, left, and Jamie Dornan appear in a scene from the film, "Fifty Shades of Grey." (AP Photo)

Fox's "Kingsman" nabbed \$17.5 million, while Paramount's "SpongeBob" soaked up another \$15.5 million.

A trio of newcomers failed to crack the top three.

Disney's cross-country

"Hot Tub Time Machine 2" opened at No. 7 with \$5.8 million.

A few Oscar contenders received a boost at the box office ahead of Sunday's 87th annual Academy Awards. □

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Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

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'Birdman' tops Spirit Awards; Keaton takes best actor

**JAKE COYLE,
LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writers

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — A day before it may soar at the Oscars, "Birdman" spread its wings at the 30th Independent Film Spirit Awards, winning best picture, best actor for Michael Keaton and best cinematography.

The elegantly stitched together backstage comedy came away the big winner at the annual pre-Oscars afternoon celebration of independent film on Saturday. Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "Birdman" won over what many consider its stiffest competition, the 12-years-in-the-making "Boyhood," though that film's maker, Richard Linklater, still took the directing honor.

As Hollywood has increasingly devoted itself to global blockbusters, the Spirit Awards — once a casual indie appetizer to the Oscars — feels more and more like the center of the industry, or at least a more idealized version of it. Set in a beachside tent in Santa Monica the day before the Academy Awards are held across town, the Spirits — broadcast live this year for the first time — variously boasted of growing prominence and of preserving a way of moviemaking often regarded as obsolete at the studios.

"We are threatened to become a species in extinction," said Inarritu, the Mexican filmmaker, accepting the best feature

award.

But the blur between the Spirit Award and the Oscars, despite their vastly different dress codes, is nearly complete. Last year's acting Spirit winners

gible.)

Backstage, Redmayne's chief rival, Keaton, basked in the final glow of a lengthy awards season.

"I'll be in the fetal position, bawling, three months

disease drama "Still Alice."

"I brought my own bras, and my own food. I begged my friend Alec Baldwin to do it," she said.

"Nightcrawler," the dark Los Angeles noir, won two

clear. Hosts Fred Armisen and Kristen Bell opened the ceremony with a medley, with Armisen singing, "I'm a little bit indie," and Bell echoing "I'm a little bit studio." The biggest gasp in the audience came when Paul Thomas Anderson, who shared in the Spirits' Robert Altman Award for the ensemble cast of his "Inherent Vice," dared to criticize a sponsor, cursing American Airlines for losing his bags.

Later, director Bennett Miller, whose "Foxcatcher" won the Special Distinction Award for its uniqueness of vision, read a note from a remorseful Anderson: "I said some bad things. I feel bad. I was trying to exhibit my independent spirit. I thought if I wore a flannel shirt and said a bad word, you would love me more. My apologies to American Airlines. It was actually United."

But the theme of commerce versus art held throughout the Spirit Awards, where winners lamented thinner checks but took pride in more soulful films. When "Boyhood" star Ethan Hawke accepted the best director award for an absent Linklater, he called the film "a flare gun" to inspire other radical visions.

"What Rick always said: it's the Wild West out there. This art form is so young," Hawke said. "There are so many stories to be told and it's going to be told not by corporate America but by you." □



Emmanuel Lubezki, from left, Emma Stone, Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, John Leshner, Michael Keaton, and Zach Galifianakis pose in the press room with the award for best feature for "Birdman" or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) at the 30th Film Independent Spirit Awards on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015, in Santa Monica, Calif. (Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP)

all mirrored the next day's Oscar winners, and "12 Years a Slave" triumphed at both ceremonies.

The same could be true this year, where Oscar front-runners Julianne Moore ("Still Alice"), J.K. Simmons ("Whiplash") and Patricia Arquette ("Boyhood") all won Spirit Awards. (Notably absent, however, was possible best-actor winner Eddie Redmayne from "The Theory of Everything," a movie that wasn't eli-

from now, missing it," said an exuberant Keaton. Before "Birdman," the 63-year-old veteran actor had never been nominated for an Oscar.

But even if the Spirit Awards can feel more and more like an Academy Awards dress rehearsal, they still seek to highlight films that often struggle to get made or to find distribution.

"We made this movie in 23 days for \$4 million," said Moore of the Alzheimer's

Spirit Awards: best first feature for Dan Gilroy, as well as best screenplay for his script.

Gilroy, who recalled years of writing screenplays to bigger-budget films that never got made, tersely applauded those in attendance as "holdouts of a tsunami of superhero movies that have swept over this industry. We have survived. We have thrived."

The line the Spirit Awards straddle wasn't always so

Cameron Diaz, Transformers, Kirk Cameron top Razzie Award

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cameron Diaz and Kirk Cameron received the dubious honor of being dubbed the year's worst actress and actor at the 35th Annual Golden Raspberry Awards (aka the "Razzies") on Saturday night.

Diaz earned the title for her performances in the raunchy comedies "The Other Woman," in which a wife and two mistresses of the same man team up

to make his life miserable, and "Sex Tape," where a couple accidentally releases their private performance to the cloud.

The modern-day remake of "Annie," which also featured Diaz as Miss Hannigan, along with Jamie Foxx and Quvenzhané Wallis as the plucky foster kid, was named worst remake, rip-off or sequel.

Cameron, meanwhile, picked up the award for "Kirk Cameron's Saving Christmas," a widely de-

ridged and somewhat self-explanatory faith-based comedy, which also won worst picture, worst screen combo (Cameron and his ego) and worst screenplay.

Razzie favorite Michael Bay was granted worst director for "Transformers: Age of Extinction," or, as the Razzies call it, "Age of Ex-STINK-tion." Although Bay's film may have grossed over \$1 billion worldwide, that didn't save the silly, explosion-happy movie

from more than one Razzie win.

"Transformers" supporting actress Nicola Peltz was spared, but Kelsey Grammer was not as lucky. The five-time Emmy winner picked up worst supporting actor not just for his role as the evil counter-intelligence agent, but also for his performances in "Legends of Oz," "Think Like a Man Too," and "Expendables 3."

Megan Fox, who gained fame from the "Transform-

ers" franchise, was recognized as worst supporting actress for playing the tenacious reporter April in the Michael Bay-produced "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

Ben Affleck was the only one who was spared. The actor-director who won for the terrible 2003 movie "Gigli," was acknowledged with a Razzie redeemer award thanks to his Oscar-winning film "Argo" and his performance in David Fincher's "Gone Girl." □



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